

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORT 25X1

SUBJECT Air Force Indoctrination and Discipline, DATE DISTR. 7 July 1953
Miscellaneous Information, and Personalities

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Indoctrination in the Air Force

1. There is an introductory indoctrination lesson of two hours for air force officers and non-commissioned officers at the beginning of the month. During the month there is a lecture on the theme given out at the introductory lesson; this also lasts two hours. Three or four questions are issued and the officer must elaborate these for 10-15 minutes at the discussion meeting at the end of the month. If he is considered to be weak in any point by the political officer in charge, he is severely criticized and told that he must do better in the future. Then follows the "discussion", during which no contrary opinions can be, or ever are, uttered. In addition, there are short lectures ("political information") lasting 20-25 minutes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. All this takes place in the evenings and is compulsory.
2. By the end of 1952, all air force officers had to know the "History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union" by heart. They and their men frequently were made to buy such books as "Economic Problems of the USSR" (35 crowns) and "Ten Years of Klement Gottwald". Other books used included Stalin's "Questions of Leninism", "The Slansky Trial", and various writings by Zapotocky. At one time, pamphlets by Slansky had been read. They were always being asked to pay 5 crowns for this or that pamphlet.
3. Conscripted men were mostly against the regime and regarded the indoctrination as one of the worst aspects of life in the forces. They were constantly being urged to imitate the Soviet soldier. The political officer in the forces is the C.O.'s deputy in the political sphere, and has nearly as much influence as the C.O. The learning of songs is included in the training. This is nothing new, but the songs are now chiefly about work and the Soviet Union.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
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4. Orders are not given in Russian. Russian is learned by all army officers, and there are also courses for the men. It is neither popular nor well-known; a high standard is not reached. Courses in Russian tend to be interrupted by good weather.

Discipline in the Air Force

5. At Youth Union meetings, soldiers criticized their officers publicly, but never their commanding officer. That is strictly forbidden. On duty they still respect their officers.

6. [] example of criticism. A certain officer had several times spoken to one of his men about his untidy appearance and torn trousers. At a Youth Union meeting, where the question of discipline was being discussed, the officer referred to this, pointed out that the man had still not improved his appearance or repaired his trousers, and instanced this as a clear case of lack of discipline. The man at once got up and said that the officer had no right to talk about discipline, since he had done some aerobatics with him which were not within the scope of their training. The officer was asked to explain, and had to confess that the man was right; self-criticism followed.

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Miscellaneous Air Force Information

7. None of the former members [] are left in the Czechoslovak Air Force. [] the Czechoslovak Air Force would not have attained its present standard of technical knowledge and efficiency but for the experience [] (Unfortunately [] the Communists have gained far too much knowledge from them). Up to 1949, training in the Czechoslovak Air Force was based on [] methods, but from 1950, Soviet methods began to creep in.
8. Rank and file members of the armed forces get little or no leave. It depends on their commanding officer whether they can get leave at Xmas and other special periods; there is no statutory entitlement. To get leave, a soldier or airman must be politically reliable. During the week, only Saturday and sometimes Sunday evenings are free. Warrant officers get from 21-28 days leave a year. Officers (flying instructors) get 35 days. However, there are recreational periods of about 14 days a year, which are not counted as leave. Units go into the country for a rest and holiday.
9. The conscription period from 1945-52 was 2 years. Since October, 1952, it has been 3 years.
10. Promotion is awarded only to those who are politically reliable and are active propagandists. Promotion is quick.
11. [] there were few Russians in the Czechoslovak Army and [] these Russians were senior officers acting in an advisory capacity.

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Air Force Personalities

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12. The following are dangerous Communists in the Czechoslovak Air Force:

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a. At Piestany:

S/Capt. Kohoutek, Jaroslav
 1st Lt. Zalesak, Rostislav
 Capt. Kubica, Jozef
 1st Lt. Bednar, Bratislav
 Lt. Zaydlar, Vlastimil

Lt. Truhlar, (fnu)

Lt. Hofman, Hynek

Lt. Rybnicek, Veroslav
 2nd Lt. Jilavsky, (fnu)

2nd Lt. Kohout, (fnu)

Lt. Simek, Otakar

Lt. Mohyla, (fnu)
 Capt. Sebian, Vojtech

b. At Liptavsky Svaty Mikulas (Technical Air-Training Station):

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Lt. Col. Horak (fnu)

Capt. Urban, Jaroslav
 Capt. Fasnak, Jan

c. At Trencin:

Capt. Tauber, (fnu)

Lt. Vana, (fnu)
 1st Lt. Kaucky, (fnu)
 Lt. Kilmacka, Milos

1st Lt. Reich, (fnu)

d. At Prostějov:

1st Lt. Majerberg, Igen

Staff/Capt. Bernard, (fnu)

L/Cpl. or Cpl. Stecha, Jaroslav

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